

PROPOSED AIR TOXICS RULE FOR LARGE APPLIANCE SURFACE COATING OPERATIONS

FACT SHEET

TODAY'S ACTION

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing national standards to reduce emissions of air toxics from the surface coating of large appliances. Air toxics, also called hazardous air pollutants, are known, or suspected, to cause cancer or other serious health and environmental effects.
- ! Large appliance surface coating is the process of applying a coating (usually protective or decorative) to a large appliance part or product. Large appliances include items such heating and air conditioning units and parts, chillers, household refrigerators, home and farm freezers, household laundry equipment, household cooking equipment, dishwashers, floor waxers and polishers, garbage disposal units, trash compactors and water heaters.
- ! Air toxic emissions at large appliances surface coating facilities occur from the coating application and related operations (including curing and/or drying of the coating) and from the evaporation of organic cleaning materials that are used to prepare the surfaces before a coating is applied and to clean equipment and tools.
- ! EPA will accept public comment for 60 days following publication of this proposal in the Federal Register. EPA anticipates issuing to issue a final rule about one year after proposal.

BENEFITS AND COSTS

- ! Large appliances surface coating operations have been identified as major sources of toxic emissions including xylene, glycol ethers, toluene, methylene diisocyanate and methyl ethyl ketone. Health effects associated with one or more of these pollutants include eye, nose, throat, and skin irritation; nausea, vomiting, headache, and dizziness; and liver and kidney damage.
- ! Today's proposal is expected to reduce air toxic emissions by approximately 1,190 tons in the fifth year after promulgation of the final rule. This represents a reduction of approximately 45 percent from the estimated baseline in that year.
- ! The total nationwide annualized cost to comply with the standards is estimated to be approximately \$2 million in the fifth year. No capital costs are anticipated.

- ! EPA assessed the impact of the proposed rule on small entities and determined that there will not be a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

WHAT THE PROPOSED RULE REQUIRES

- ! Today's proposed rule would require that all "major" sources in the large appliance coating industry meet specific emission limits. A "major" source is one that emits 10 tons per year or more of a single air toxic, or 25 tons per year or more of a combination of toxics. The proposed emission limits apply to the entire affected source.
- ! Existing affected sources would be required to limit organic air toxic emissions to 1.1 pound per gallon of coating solids used (0.13 kg per liter). New sources would need to limit emissions to 0.18 pounds per gallon (0.022 kg/liter). The term *coating solids* refers to the material remaining after solvent evaporates from a coating.
- ! For both existing and new sources, the emission limits represent levels that can be met by pollution prevention techniques. Most existing sources are expected to use liquid and powder coatings with lower organic air toxic contents, and organic air toxic-free cleaning materials to comply with the emission limitations. Most new sources are expected to use powder coatings and air toxic-free cleaning materials.

BACKGROUND

- ! The Clean Air Act requires EPA to regulate sources of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. For all listed source categories, the law requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution reduction measures known as maximum achievable control technology (MACT).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- ! To download the proposal from EPA's website on the World Wide Web, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>.
- ! Written comment on the proposed rule should be submitted (in duplicate if possible) to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), Attention Docket Number A-97-41, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460. The EPA requests a separate copy also be sent to Mr. Lynn Dail, Coatings and Consumer Products Group, Emission Standards Division (MD-13), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711; facsimile number (919) 541-5689; electronic mail address: dail.lynn@epa.gov.

- ! Commenters wishing to submit proprietary information must clearly distinguish such information from other comments and clearly label it as confidential business information. Send submissions containing such information directly to the following address, and not to the public docket, to ensure that proprietary information is not inadvertently placed in the docket: Mr. Lynn Dail, c/o Document Control Officer (Room 740B), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 411 W. Chapel Hill Street, Durham, NC 27701.

- ! For further information about the proposal, contact Mr. Lynn Dail of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-2363 (or by electronic mail at: dail.lynn@epa.gov).